**Hepatitis C Virus**

**Signs and Symptoms**: people can present completely asymptomatic or with symptoms of liver disease

**Source**: parenteral innoculation

**Manner of exposure, route, residual tissues, transmittance**: exposures are known to be associated with parenteral (percutaneous), permucosal, and perinatal conditions; most infections are due to illegal injection drug use

**Pathology**: similar to HBV infection; acute HCV infection is typically asymptomatic or presents with mild clinical illness, where it is indistinguishable from other hepatitis infections; elevation of serum ALT is the most characteristic feature; ALT elevations after the acute stage can indicate a chronic disease

**How to Identify**: serology and hepatitis panel; enveloped virus with icosahedral capsid containing a single-stranded, polyadenylated, positive-sense RNA genome; flaviviridae family; serum ALT levels can lead in the right direction

**Resistance**: none

**Susceptibility**: being born to a HepC+ mother, IV drug use, transfusions

**Other DDx**: Hepatitis A/B/C; other viral causes (CMV, EBV, yellow fever, lassa); gallstones; alcohol/drug induced hepatitis

**Prevention, Treatment, Vaccine Design**: interferon and ribavirin are two drugs licensed for treatment of chronic HCV; there is no vaccine—avoidance of risk factors is the best prevention